

# California State Journal of Medicine

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OWNED AND PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
BUTLER BUILDING, 135 STOCKTON STREET, SAN FRANCISCO

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VOL. XVI

OCTOBER, 1918

Number 10

## FOURTH LIBERTY LOAN.

The Fourth Liberty Loan campaign, which opens September 28 and closes October 19, provides a field for direct war work which no patriotic practitioner can shirk.

The size of the loan, certainly six billion dollars, probably eight billion, is huge. No sum approaching it in proportions has ever before been gathered for any purpose by any nation, nor at one time, by any group of nations. Until the Great War made the daily expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars common, the mention of such a loan would have seemed the wildest fancy.

The enormous resources of the United States, estimated at \$250,000,000,000, and the country's annual income, now said to approach \$50,000,000,000, are sufficient guarantee that neither conscription nor confiscation of wealth or bank accounts will be necessary to raise the Fourth Liberty Loan or any others now in prospect.

Secretary McAdoo has stated officially that "the absurdity of any such fears is manifest and that any rumors to that effect are baseless." The Treasury Department, in publishing the Secretary's statement, adds succinctly:

"There is but one thing that will put in danger of confiscation the savings accounts of the American people. That one thing is a German victory."

The one thing needful to the raising of the six or eight billion dollars of the Fourth Liberty Loan in the short space of three weeks' time allotted to the task is the rousing of an irresistible determination in the heart of every man and woman of our population to make the loan an immediate and glorious success; a success as decisive as our immortal troops made in their initial charges of the war at Cantigny and Chateau Thierry.

The physician, being in daily and intimate touch

with a great proportion of the population, has a great responsibility in this direction.

He should not consider it an incidental or lesser portion of his daily routine. He should consider it as vitally important as the surgeon regards the sterilization of his instruments.

The success of the Fourth Liberty Loan is the one big vital war effort which confronts civilian America. Without it ships cannot be built, soldiers cannot be fed, guns cannot be fed ammunition.

Its partial success would bring forth a chorus of jeers from the German press only comparable to gloating over a smashing defeat of our First American Army in its operations in Lorraine. Its failure would leave the German nation laughing in the faces of our soldiers and shrink the hearts of our allies.

A rousing oversubscription will shatter the German morale beyond power of Hun leaders to repair it. Germany has proved that she cannot be starved out. The defection of Russia released huge armies that the allies never expected to confront in the West.

We can only win the war by smashing the Boche back into Rhineland in terror-stricken rout.

The Fourth Liberty Loan will help do it.

Do YOUR share.

## THE DENTAL INITIATIVE.

In another column of this issue will be found a discussion of the proposed dental initiative amendments which are to be presented to the voters of California on November 5th for adoption or rejection.

This measure is as vital to the medical fraternity as is any other question dealing with the health of the people, even though it applies only to

existing laws governing the practice of dentistry.

Three important facts are discussed. First, Is the great power of the initiative to be invoked and abused by any or every individual who is willing for personal greed to spend the money necessary to place a measure before the people? Second, Are the standards of dental practice to be lowered for similar reasons? And third, Are the people sufficiently well informed on matters pertaining to health and disease to amend the laws with which they are unfamiliar?

The power of the initiative was never intended to be used for selfish purposes or personal enrichment, but to enable the people to enact salutary laws for the public good, in the event a Legislature controlled by selfish interests might refuse to do its duty.

This measure, ostensibly proposed for the public good, yet publicly acknowledged to be for personal interest, bears little resemblance to good legislation, especially since personal publicity seems to be the most prominent feature of the issue proposed. The situation is too obvious for further discussion. It might be well to state, however, that in the event such a measure passes, it will require the use of the initiative at an enormous expense to the people to amend the dental laws in the future, and all public health and medical legislation is confronted with a similar problem.

As to the standards of dental education, no branch of medical science has been more widely discussed in medical literature and in medical practice during the last five years than dentistry.

When we realize how much danger is lurking in the mouth, the gateway to health, and that a liberal percentage of it is traceable to poor dentistry, it seems only fair to assume that higher standards in dental practice will be the only means of protection the public may have. The proposed measure offers nothing in the way of improving these conditions but on the contrary deprives the people of the only means of protection they now have.

As to the question of deciding on questions of health and disease by direct legislation, much can be said: Most people are wholly unfamiliar with these laws and ordinances. When they suffer from any physical disorder they immediately consult a physician, or a dentist or some other practitioner. This is an acknowledgment of the fact that they have no confidence in themselves in such matters. That sanitary laws and quarantine regulations are necessary is generally acknowledged to be true, and that these laws have been enacted at the suggestion of the medical profession and the public health authorities is very well known. This additional evidence corroborates the above statement.

The confidence which the general public reposes in the medical and dental profession warrants the assumption that the ethical members thereof are well enough informed on such matters to be able to advise the voters of the State on such issues and it should be considered a part of their duty to discuss public health just as much as individual health.

After thorough investigation, we are convinced

that the introduction of such a vicious measure, at a time when a large percentage of the members of the dental profession have responded to the nation's call and are not here to defend their professional standards, will have a retaliatory effect upon its proponent. Physicians are most seriously concerned in this matter. They, and all citizens concerned over public health and efficient dentists and doctors, must see to it that Amendment 21 is overwhelmingly defeated. The reasons are clearly set forth in the article. Vote NO on Amendment 21.

#### **FIFTY THOUSAND MEDICAL OFFICERS.**

With an army of three million men in the field or in training and as contemplated, an expansion of this force to five million men, the Surgeon-General must have in the Medical Reserve Corps at least fifty thousand doctors. The Medical Corps must keep pace in growth with the army expansion and it behooves every doctor in the United States between the ages of 21 and 55, who is physically, morally and professionally fit, at the earliest possible moment, to arrange his personal affairs so as to offer his services to his country in the capacity of a medical officer. The United States is in the war to win and this can only be accomplished by a large and well-trained body of troops adequately cared for by sufficient number of medical officers. The importance of the doctor's service and its relation to the successful outcome of the war cannot be over-estimated.

As the mobile forces increase in size, so is there an expansion of Base Hospitals and other institutions for the care of the sick and wounded, and there must be no lack of officers, when required, to give them that professional attention which is so essential. It is well for the medical profession of the United States to realize at once that a Medical Reserve Corps of at least 50,000 doctors will be required to meet the demands of the Surgeon-General and upon which corps he can draw for his medical officers. By this time the profession must be fully alive to the needs of the service; so let every doctor who is qualified, feel that he is doing not only his patriotic duty in offering his service as a medical officer, but is relieving the tension of the Surgeon-General's office by placing at the command of the Chief Officer of the Medical Department an adequate force without the frequent beating of drums to supply the necessary number with each increase of the mobile forces.

If you have not already received an application blank for commission in the Medical Reserve Corps, your nearest Examining Board or the Editor of this journal will be glad to supply you.

#### **VOLUNTEER MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS.**

Many thousands of blanks for enrollment of the legally qualified men and women physicians of the country in the reorganized Volunteer Medical Service Corps are being mailed by the Chairman of the General Medical Board of the Council of National Defense. With the blank are enclosed a letter and a folder giving all details as to the organization.

Under the reorganization, every legally qualified